

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 17, 18, 24, 29-33, 37, 40-45, and 47-51 without prejudice.
Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original subject matter in a continuing application.
Please amend claims 19, 25, 27, 28, and 46; and add claim 53.

1. (Previously Presented) A support device for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage of an animal, the support device comprising:
 - an adhesive layer for securing the support device to the tissues;
 - a support layer; and
 - a surface layer, the surface layer configured to include:
 - a center transverse dimension having a center transverse axis therethrough;
 - a first and second lateral transverse dimension on opposing sides of said center transverse dimension;
 - said center transverse dimension greater than all other transverse dimensions of said support device;
 - a center longitudinal dimension having a center longitudinal axis therethrough which is orthogonal to said center transverse axis and bisects said center transverse dimension;
 - a first and second lateral longitudinal dimension on opposing sides of said center longitudinal dimension,
 - said center transverse dimension greater than said first and second lateral transverse dimension;
 - said center longitudinal dimension greater than said first and second lateral longitudinal dimensions;
 - said surface layer including an apex aligned with said center longitudinal axis;
 - said surface layer on opposing sides of said center transverse axis being mirror images of one another.
2. (Original) A support device according to claim 1 wherein said surface layer on opposing sides of said longitudinal axis are mirror images of one another.

3. (Original) A support device according to claim 1 wherein said center longitudinal dimension is less than said first transverse dimension.
4. (Original) A support device according to claim 1 wherein said support layer includes at least one lift member.
5. (Original) A support device according to claim 1 wherein said support layer includes at least two lift members.
6. (Original) A support device according to claim 1 wherein said support layer includes three or more lift members.
7. (Original) A support device according to claim 1 wherein said adhesive layer is intermittent.
8. (Previously Presented) A support device according to claim 5 wherein said device includes holes through said surface layer and said adhesive layer, said holes not through said lift members.
9. (Original) A support device according to claim 1 wherein said surface layer is bilateral symmetrical across both of said transverse and longitudinal axes.

Claims 10-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The support device according to claim ~~52~~ 17 wherein said first and second lateral regions of said bridge piece attach to said first and second side pieces using velcro.
20. (Cancelled)
21. (Previously Presented) A support device according to claim 1 wherein the center transverse dimension is about 10-17 cm.

22. (Previously Presented) The support device according to claim 21 wherein the center longitudinal dimension is about 6-14 cm.

Claims 23-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) The nasal support device of claim 53 24, wherein the center longitudinal dimension is greater than any other longitudinal dimension of the surface layer.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) The nasal support device of claim 53 24, wherein the first protrusion comprises an apex.

28. (Currently Amended) The nasal support device of claim 53 24, wherein the first protrusion is symmetrically disposed along the center longitudinal axis.

Claims 29-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) A support device for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage of a horse, said device comprising:

a first side piece for applying over said first nasal passage;

a second side piece for applying over said second nasal passage; and

a bridge piece comprising at least two lift members, each of the lift members including a first lateral region and a second lateral region for attaching and detaching said first lateral region to said first side piece and said second lateral region to said second side piece, the first lateral region of each lift member engaging the first side piece at a plurality of spaced-apart first detachable contact locations, and the second lateral region of each lift member engaging the second side piece at a plurality of spaced-apart second detachable contact locations.

39. (Previously Presented) The support device of claim 38, wherein each of the lift members comprises a strip.

Claims 40-45. (Cancelled)

46. (Currently Amended) The nasal support device of claim 52 17, wherein the bridge piece is flexible to permit selective engagement of the side pieces at different locations of the plurality of first and second detachable contact locations.

Claims 47-51. (Cancelled)

52. (Previously Presented) A support device for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage of a horse, said device comprising:

- a first side piece for applying over said first nasal passage, the first side piece having a plurality of spaced-apart first detachable contact locations;

- a second side piece for applying over said second nasal passage, the second side piece having a plurality of spaced-apart second detachable contact locations; and

- a bridge piece comprising a strip and at least two lift members, the strip including a first lateral region and a second lateral region for attaching and detaching said first lateral region to said first side piece and said second lateral region to said second side piece, the first lateral region being configured for selectively engaging the first side piece at one location of the plurality of spaced-apart first detachable contact locations, and the second lateral region being configured for selectively engaging the second side piece at one location of the plurality of spaced-apart second detachable contact locations, wherein the strip provides different support tensions by selectively engaging the side pieces at different locations of the plurality of first and second detachable contact locations.

53. (New) A nasal support device for supporting tissues overlying a first and second nasal passage, the support device comprising:

- (a) an adhesive layer for securing the support device to the tissues;

- (b) a surface layer, the surface layer configured to include:

- (i) a center longitudinal dimension having a center longitudinal axis therethrough;

- (ii) a first transverse dimension having a first transverse axis that is orthogonal to said center longitudinal axis and bisects said center longitudinal axis;
 - (iii) a first side and a second side positioned on opposite sides of the first transverse axis;
 - (iv) a first protrusion disposed at the center longitudinal axis that projects outwardly from the first side in a direction generally along the center longitudinal axis; and
 - (v) a second protrusion disposed at the center longitudinal axis that projects outwardly from the second side in a direction generally along the center longitudinal axis; and
- (c) a plurality of support structures having lengths that extend along the transverse dimension of said surface layer, the support structures being configured to reduce the draw of the supporting tissues inward toward the nasal passages during respiration.